

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 8 and 15 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for receiving and storing voice mail messages, the method comprising:
  - receiving, at a first server, an incoming call;
  - determining whether the call is to be transferred to voice mail; and
  - responsive to determining that the call is to be transferred to voice mail:
    - determining the call's voice mail extension;
    - determining a second server, the second server being the voice mail extension's home server;
    - determining whether the second server is a remote server; and
    - responsive to determining that the second server is a remote server:
      - determining whether the second server is available; and
      - responsive to determining that the second server is not available, storing the voice mail message in the first server.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - responsive to determining that the call is not to be transferred to voice mail, handling the call normally.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - responsive to determining that the second server is not a remote server, storing the voice mail message in the first server.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to determining that the second server is available, sending the voice mail message to the second server.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing voice mail messages, the method comprising:

determining, at a first server, whether a second server is available; and

responsive to determining that the second server is available:

retrieving a voice mail message from the first server; and

sending the voice mail message to the second server.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

querying a configuration module for a location of the second server.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

responsive to determining that the second server is available:

receiving, by the second server, the voice mail message; and

storing, by the second server, the voice mail message.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the apparatus comprising:

a call status module, configured to determine whether a call should be transferred to voice mail;

a call transfer module, configured to determine a call's voice mail extension and a server on which the voice mail extension resides, wherein the server is one of a plurality of servers on which voice mail extensions reside; and

a voice mail migration module, configured to send a voice mail message to a remote server.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:  
the call transfer module is further configured to determine whether the server on which the voice mail extension resides is a remote server.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:  
a storage interface module, configured to allow modules to store and retrieve data.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:  
an audio encoding/decoding module, configured to convert audio voice mail messages to a data format suitable for storage and to convert voice mail messages from this storage data format to an audio format.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:  
a telephony application programming interface module, configured to allow modules access to data on a switch.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:  
a configuration module, configured to provide information about remote servers.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:  
an extension library module, configured to provide common functions that are used by modules.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the system comprising:

a first apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the first apparatus comprising:

a first call status module, configured to determine whether a first call should be transferred to voice mail;

a first call transfer module, configured to determine a first call's voice mail extension and a first server on which the first voice mail extension resides, wherein the first server is one of a plurality of servers on which voice mail extensions reside; and

a first voice mail migration module, configured to send a first voice mail message to a first remote server; and

a second apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the second apparatus comprising:

a second call status module, configured to determine whether a second call should be transferred to voice mail;

a second call transfer module, configured to determine a second call's voice mail extension and a second server on which the second voice mail extension resides, wherein the second server is one of a plurality of servers on which voice mail extensions reside; and

a second voice mail migration module, configured to send a second voice mail message to a second remote server;

wherein the first apparatus and the second apparatus are coupled to each other.